

INFORMATION PROCESSING TERMINAL

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to an information processing terminal that includes two cases each having a touch-panel display.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] A certain information processing terminal such as a portable telephone, a smartphone, a portable information terminal, or a personal computer includes two displays. Such an information processing terminal may be configured such that the two cases respectively that include displays are coupled together to be foldable.

[0003] The information processing terminal of such a configuration can be folded compact during carrying and used in various ways, such as simultaneous use of two applications during use and use of one application on a large screen across the two displays.

[0004] However, the information processing terminal of such a configuration has a gap between the two displays, and consequently one large image is divided when it is displayed on the two displays. Thus, in the information processing terminal of such a configuration, the two displays must be set as close to each other as possible.

[0005] FIG. 1 is an appearance view showing a portable electronic book described in Patent Literature 1. In the portable electronic book described in Patent Literature 1, hinge units **X12a** and **X22a** are arranged outside display screens **X13** and **X23** in an axial direction where two cases (display devices **X1** and **X2**) are coupled together to be openable and closable, thereby enabling arrangement of two display screens **X13** and **X23** to be close to each other. Further, the portable electronic book is configured so that the surface of two display screens **X13** and **X23** can match a surface passing through the center of hinge units **X12a** and **X22a**.

CITATION LIST

[0006] Patent Literature 1: JP2006-113501A

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Problems to be Solved by Invention

[0007] As described above, in the portable electronic book described in Patent Literature 1, a plane including two display screens **X13** and **X23** matches the surface that passes through the center of hinge units **X12a** and **X22a** when two display devices **X1** and **X2** are opened by 180 degrees. Thus, two display devices **X1** and **X2** can be brought close to each other.

[0008] However, when two display devices **X1** and **X2** are opened by 180 degrees, hinge unit **X12a** protrudes in a height direction from the plane including two display screens **X13** and **X23**. Hinge unit **X12a** needs to be of a certain size to ensure that the unit has enough strength to ensure that a double spread angle can be freely set.

[0009] When display devices **X1** and **X2** are touch-panel displays, there is a possibility that a finger or a pen may touch hinge units **X12a** and **X22a** during a touching operation when the user uses a finger or a pen to touch the display, thereby causing the operability to deteriorate.

[0010] It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an information processing terminal configured such

that the gap between two touch-panel displays is narrow and that a touching operation in which the user touches the display is easy.

Solution to Problem

[0011] To achieve the object, according to the present invention, an information processing terminal includes two cases each having a touch-panel display and coupled together by a hinge unit to be openable and closable. The hinge unit is a biaxial hinge having two parallel rotary shafts respectively connected to the two cases and located outside the displays in the axial direction of the rotary shafts.

Effects of Invention

[0012] The present invention can provide an information processing terminal configured such that the gap between two touch-panel displays is narrow and such that a touching operation in which the user touches the display is easy.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0013] FIG. 1 A view showing a portable electronic book described in Patent Literature 1.

[0014] FIG. 2 A perspective view showing an information processing terminal in the opened state according to this embodiment.

[0015] FIG. 3 A perspective view showing an information processing terminal in the closed state according to this embodiment.

[0016] FIG. 4 A plan view showing the information processing terminal in the opened state according to this embodiment.

[0017] FIG. 5 A view schematically showing the peripheral configuration of hinge unit **16**.

[0018] FIG. 6 An explanatory view showing an arrangement relationship between hinge unit **16** and other portions.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENT

[0019] Hereinafter, the embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to the drawings.

[0020] FIG. 2 is a perspective view showing an information processing terminal in the opened state according to this embodiment.

[0021] FIG. 3 is a perspective view showing an information processing terminal in the closed state according to this embodiment.

[0022] Information processing terminal **10** according to this embodiment is, as an example, a portable information terminal that has a communication function and includes two cases **13** and **14** connected to be openable and closable by hinge units **15** and **16**. Cases **13** and **14** respectively include displays **11** and **12**.

[0023] As shown in FIG. 2, in a state where cases **13** and **14** are open to a 180 degree angle, the display surfaces of two displays **11** and **12** are set in the same direction to simultaneously enter a user's field of view. As shown in FIG. 3, in the closed state of **13** and **14**, the display surfaces of two displays **11** and **12** face each other, and displays **11** and **12** are protected by cases **13** and **14**. The opening angles of cases **13** and **14** can be freely adjusted between 0 to 180 degrees.

[0024] FIG. 4 is a plan view showing the information processing terminal in the opened state according to this embodiment.